August 2016

Amish Country News

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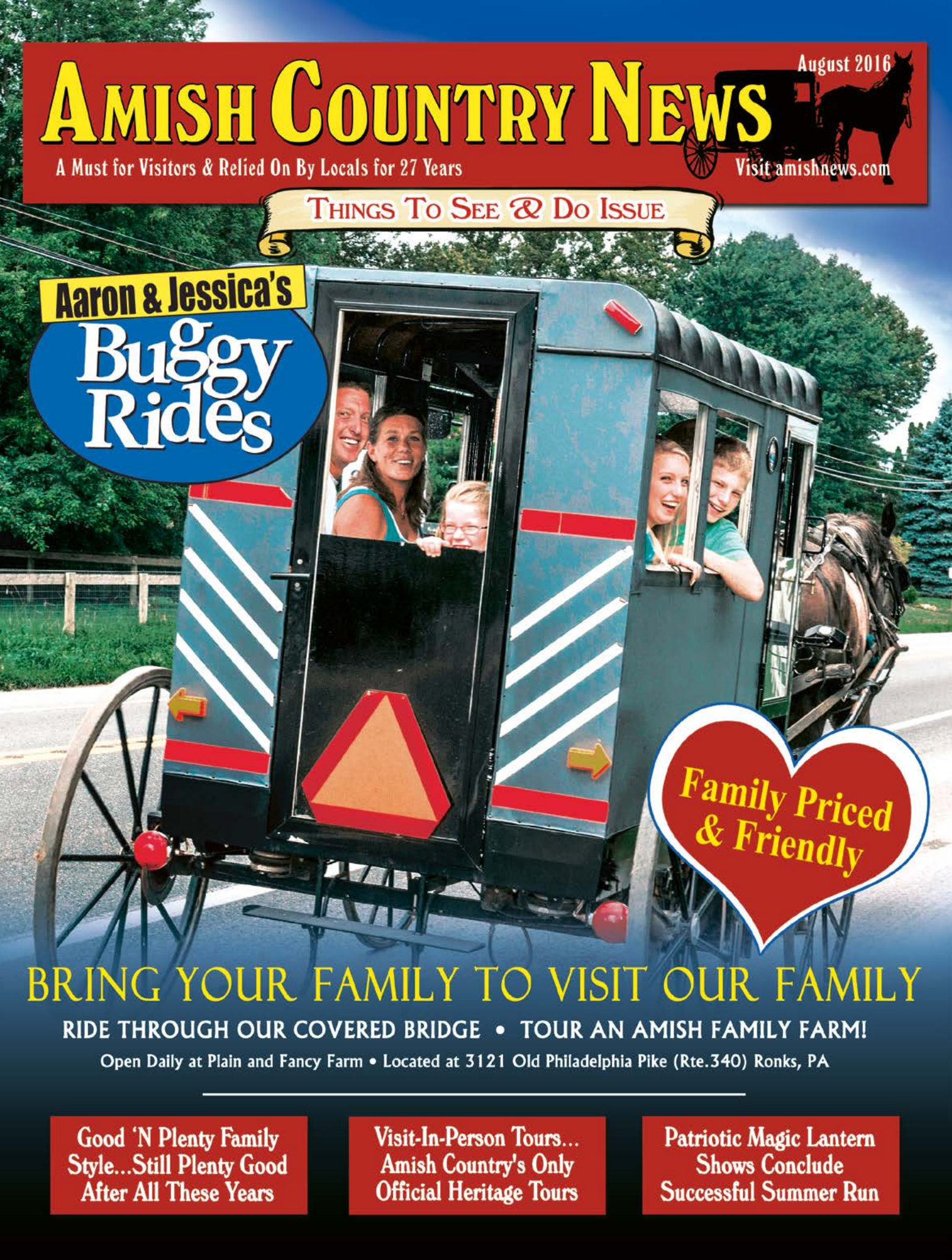
Things To See & Do Issue



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$15.95 Admission*	FREE Child Admission◇
Grand Arrival, Aug. 6 & 7 • Labor Day, Sep. 5	Children's Fantasy • Sep. 10 & 11

*$15.95 Admission Price Online Only. $19.95 at the Gate. Admission Regularly $30.95. ◇Free Child Admission (11 and Under) for Every Full-Paying Adult with the Combo Ticket.
No Coupons or codes necessary. Special themed savings are date specific and cannot be used during other weekends of the PA Renaissance Faire.
When purchasing these discounted tickets online, please choose the Grand Arrival, Labor Day or Children's Fantasy specific options.

Royal Dog Days • Weekends in August • More info at PaRenFaire.com/DogDays

DUTCH HAVEN LANCASTER COUNTY LANDMARK

While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 67 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

Come Taste America's Best Shoo Fly Pie FREE!

Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week 9AM–9PM. For more information about this Lancaster County landmark, call (717) 687–0111.

As always at Dutch Haven, the famous pie that was featured in Time magazine is just part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to copper crafts, T-shirts, small wood crafts, a stunning selection of pottery, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

Visiting Dutch Haven - "the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous" - will help to make your trip to Pennsylvania Dutch Country even more memorable.

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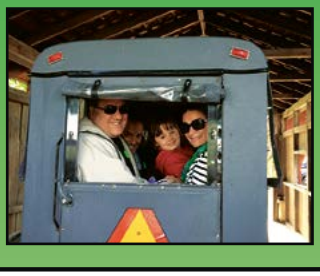

Visit a Real Amish Farm. Get Off the Buggy and See the Cows and Clydesdale-Type Work Horses.

We Absolutely Offer You More!

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- Harness Shop
- Amish Farm Stands
- Amish Buggy Factory
- Amish Shoe Store
- Amish Hat Shop
- Furniture Shops

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$1.00 OFF The Cookie Run

$2.00 OFF Town Tour

$3.00 OFF Amish Farm Tour

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"Amish Town Tour" Adults $14 Child $7
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AARON & JESSICA'S - IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY!

Buggy Rides - A Family Tradition That No One Outgrows!

"Ride back in time, before the car, train or plane was ever imagined..."

Special to Amish Country News

Ride Like the Amish Do!

Aaron and Jessica will be happy to take you. Jessica? Well, she's the little girl who started it all. Her dad agreed to let her try her hand at giving buggy rides. She liked driving horses, and thought it would be fun to show the beautiful scenery and Amish farms to visitors. Aaron? You're probably thinking that must be Jessica's father. Nope. You just can't have a buggy ride without a horse. That's right, Aaron was Jessica's horse. And that's how Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides was born.

Ride Through the Covered Bridge

As Jessica always says, "We know you came here more than anything to see and understand how and why we live the way we do. Take a ride with us. Let us tell you all about it, too. After all, we live here."

"You don't pass one piece of ground that isn't farmed with a horse when you take a ride with us!" —Jessica's Dad

The buggy rides depart from the property of Plain & Fancy Farm. You'll see a little red covered bridge along the side of Route 340, exactly a mile and a half from either Bird-in-Hand or Intercourse. Completely surrounded by Amish farmland, there are at least seven different routes offered with different sights, stops, lengths, and prices. No reservations are needed. Just pick your ride when you arrive.

Welcome Rain or Shine
7 Days a Week!
No Reservations Needed.

For more info about Private Rides for you, your family, or your group, email **amishbuggyrides@gmail.com** or call 717.723.0478.

Family Tradition That Never Disappoints

Jessica likes to stress the non-commercial nature of the rides. "We can take you between the house and the barn on a real Amish farm, on private roads, with no cars. You see real Amish life. We absolutely offer you more!"

Open All Year
See Our World
Rain or Shine
From a Buggy
PRIVATE AMISH ROAD - REAL FAMILY CARRIAGES
We take you to VISIT REAL AMISH FARMS.
You'll experience REAL AMISH LIFE!

Most of the drivers are our neighbors and are Amish. Jessica's dad, who has driven thousands of visitors down Amish farm lanes over the last 25 years, was three years old when he had his first recollection of a horse. He guesses he has driven a carriage more than anyone else in Lancaster County, about 10,000 miles a year!

Enjoy the beautiful countryside of Lancaster County with its immaculately kept Amish farms and gardens. Experience for yourself a taste of Amish Country life here.

All the rides are reasonably priced, starting at just $10.00 for adults and $6.00 for kids.

The ride is "air-conditioned." You'll be more than comfortable with the open buggy and the breeze. Jessica says, "In the summer, it's a great way to cool off. My dad says it's like sitting in the shade with the fan on... 409 air-conditioning... four wheels turning at nine miles an hour!"

All of the buggy rides pass through a covered bridge. Kids love buggy rides, especially getting to sit up front next to the drivers! As one visitor from Long Island said, "This is our fifth time here this year. We love it here. Since my son woke up this morning Aaron & Jessica's is all I've heard" So, if your kids are driving you buggy, let Aaron & Jessica take over the reins for a while! Look for the little covered bridge along Route 340 at Plain & Fancy Farm, midway between Intercourse and Bird-in-Hand.

We Absolutely Offer You More

Besides more miles and longer rides, we have lots of free parking, and "traffic free" loading, for a safe tour with experienced drivers.

Here's a list of the Amish owned shops and sights surrounding us that you could see, depending on which tour you take with us. We are in an all Amish area that includes an Amish machine shop, six Amish one-room schools, Amish shoe store, Amish hat shop, two Amish quilt shops, Amish butcher shop, four Amish Furniture shops, Amish grocery store, two Amish buggy factories, harness and saddle shop, Amish blacksmith and, of course, an Amish horse dealer. That's why we like to say we have "the best location in Amish Country!"

Want to know what it's like?... Scan QR Code...

Throw out the Pot, and Keep the Pie!

By Clinton Martin

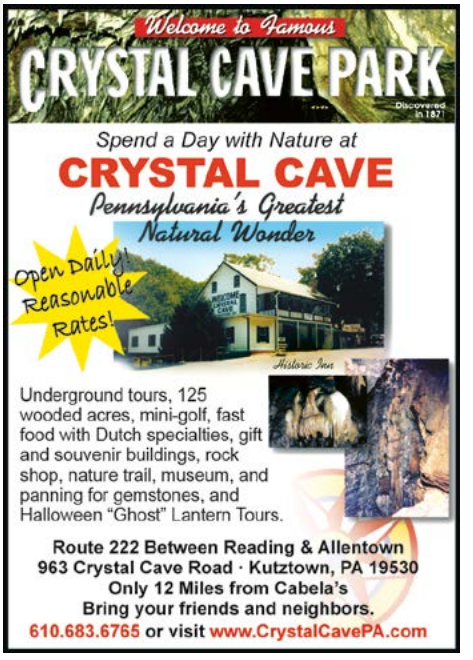
When a Pennsylvania Dutch Chicken Pot Pie isn't a pot pie, it's a chicken pie. Confused? No need! You'll find the explanation right here in Amish Country in delicately prepared meat pies, available in a number of different sizes and meats from single-serving to family-meal, ready to take home, to campsite, or RV.

It all begins with your visit to Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies, a family-owned business on the farm of a local Amish family. The culinary delights have moved into the second generation of family members, serving up the same delicious heritage the name Zook's was built on, but also bringing new innovations, like delicious homemade apple dumplings for dessert!

With your first bite of these old-fashioned pies, you'll savor tastes of chicken, beef, or sausage, plus carrots, peas, celery, onions, and potatoes, all baked into a satisfying and convenient meal.

The Zook's farm atmosphere is perfect for a stop along your travels, with chickens strutting around the barnyard across the calm country road, curious Holsteins (cows for the city-folk) peeking through the picket fence next to the bake house, and the wonderful panorama of the Amish countryside. Sirens, horns, and cacophony? No. Try a country breeze through the rolling fields of crops, the clip-clop of horses' hooves along the winding roads, the crowing of the proud rooster and, of course, the irresistible smell of something special cooking in an Amish kitchen!

Stop in Monday through Saturday to explore Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies at 3194 Harvest Drive, Ronks PA. Call (717) 768-0239 for further information.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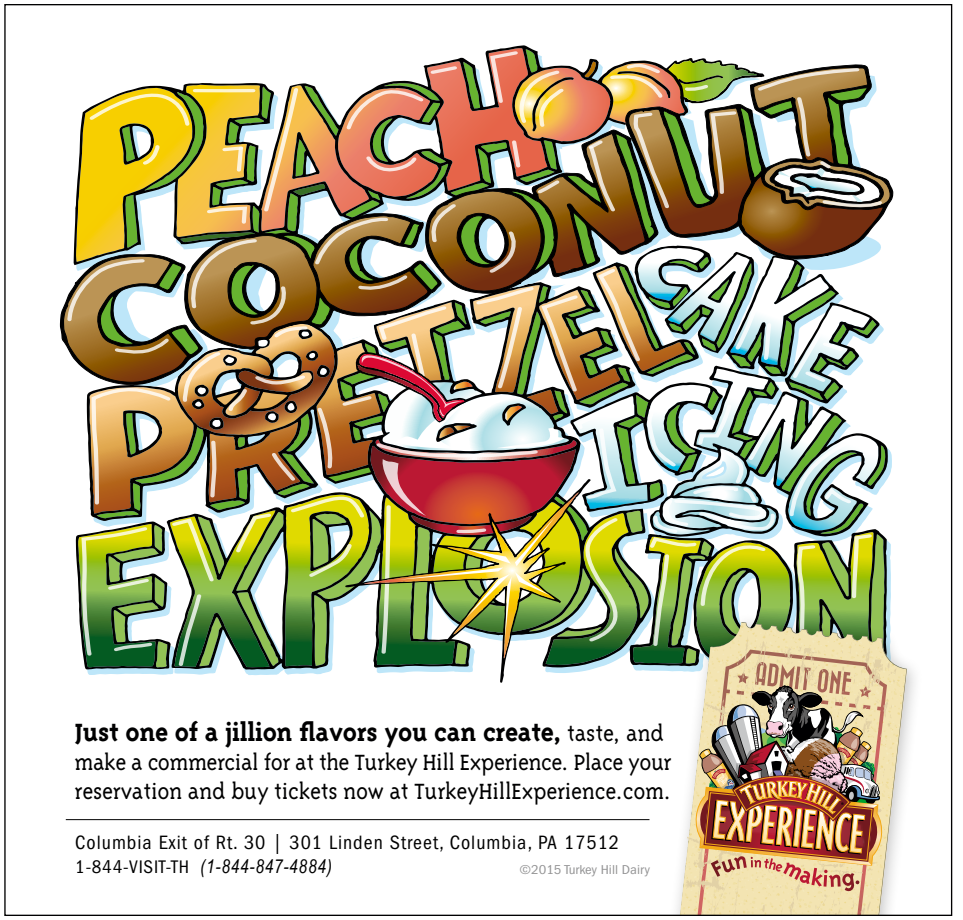
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Amish Country August Events

Opening August 20
Is there Life After 50?
Rainbow's Comedy Playhouse

August 27-September 4
Day Out With Thomas
Strasburg Rail Road

August 26
All Aboard Date Night in Amish Country
Strasburg Scooters

Opening August 11
Yeston & Kopit's Phantom
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre

Saturdays & Sundays August-October
Great PA Renaissance Faire
Mount Hope Estate

August 13
Kids' Craft Carnival
Flower & Home Marketplace

Now through September 4
Magic Lantern Show
Plain & Fancy Theater

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Maureen Bashaw, News Press
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- ☐ June
- ☐ July
- ☐ August
- ☐ September
- ☐ October
- ☐ Winter (Nov/Dec)

A Really Cool Place to Play: Go'N Bananas

By Clinton Martin

Play… a verb. It's the priceless activity families enjoy together at home and while on vacation. Play is great for exercise, learning, bonding, letting loose, laughing, and amusement.

Spin Zone Bumper Cars at Go 'N Bananas are a favorite attraction.

Here in Amish Country, families have choices as to where they choose to play, but the newly opened, Go'N Bananas is quickly headed to be at the top of the list. With ribbons cut just in time for the 2016 season, this jungle-themed indoor play paradise offers numerous activities for adventurous families. There's an 85-seat café, 24-player laser tag, bumper cars, mini-bowling, a ropes course, and a 60-game arcade, making this a place for both young and young at heart, especially for parents to enjoy with their children.

Go'N Bananas is easy to find near the intersection of Manheim Pike and Dillerville Road, just behind Sheetz near Lancaster City. GPS directions, 1170 Garfield Ave, Lancaster. Open every day including Sunday into the evening, you'll "go ape" over the fun that awaits. Call (717) 287-5000 or visit the website www.gonbananas.com for more information.

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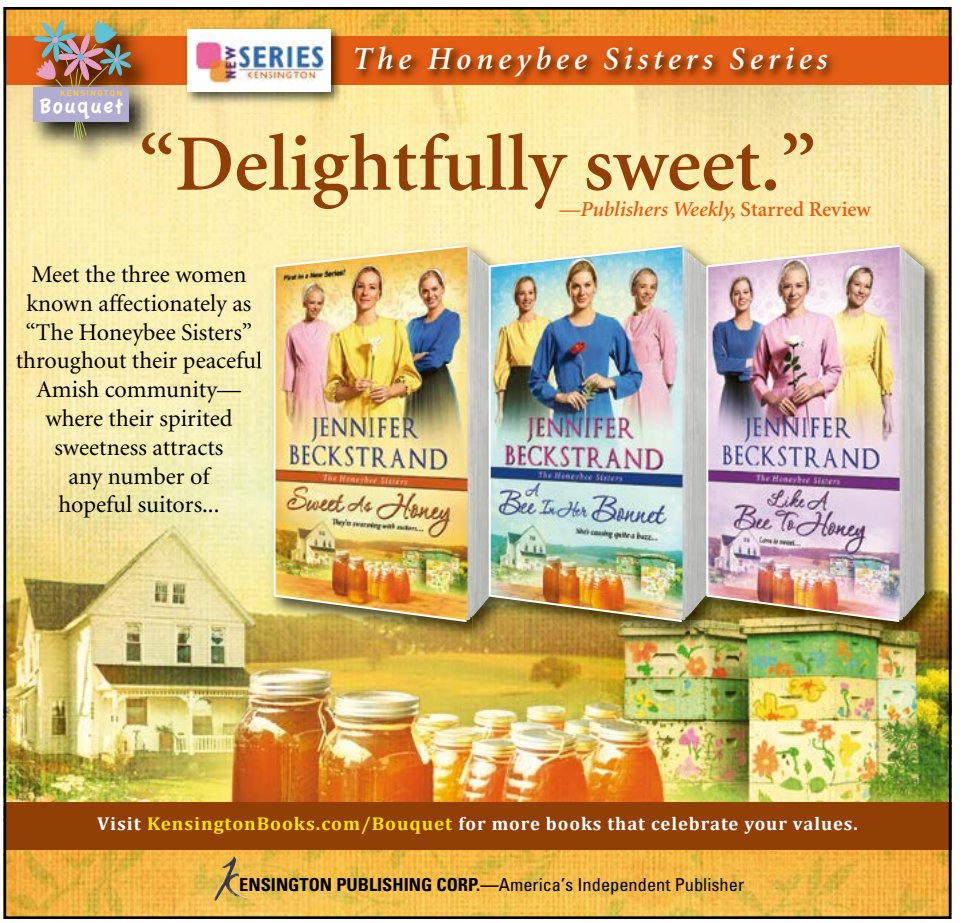
Dutch Haven Serves "Definitive" Shoo-Fly Pie

By Clinton Martin

What could be more "Amish Country" than shoo-fly pie? There aren't many desserts that typify a location more than the sweet, molassesy taste of shoo-fly pie does for the Pennsylvania Dutch region. Undoubtedly the area's most famous baker of the delectable pie is Dutch Haven. Located on Route 30, less than five miles east of the outlets, Dutch Haven is one of the easiest places to identify, with its huge circulating windmill beckoning hungry travelers to stop by.

Continued on Page 25

Visitors enjoy the Amish Experience VIP (Visit-in-Person) Tour, Lancaster's only official Heritage Tour, where, in 14 passenger touring shuttles, adventurers meet and interact with Amish families where they live, work, and play. See page 21 for details.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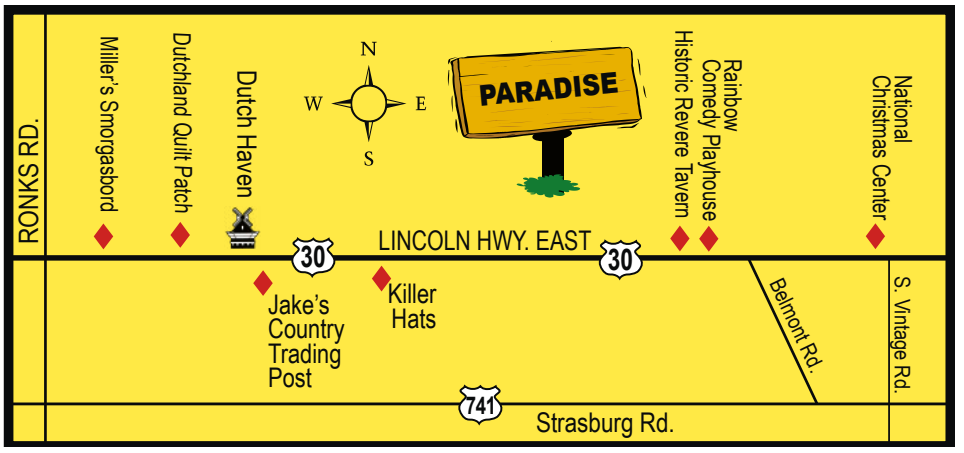
Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on Route 30 travel through Paradise. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of Route 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The first road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that this road was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike"). The "Lincoln Highway" (Route 30) opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle," still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Suwannee River" and "Oh! Susanna." Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm!

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Jake's Country Trading Post… Home to Great Home Accents and Much More!

By Clinton Martin

You couldn't necessarily tell by its name, but Jake's Country Trading Post has lots and lots of "cool stuff," including great accents and add-ons for your home. Fortunately, Jake's is located in the heart of it all, and is open seven days a week.

It all started in 1996 when local couple Ed and Melissa Jackson decided to leave the craft and gift show circuit and bring new life to a vacant building along Route 30 in the village of Paradise. That original 5000-square-foot building (seems so small by today's space) was lovingly brought back to life through many hours of hard work and became Jake's Country Trading Post.

Visitors and locals alike seemed to love the unique merchandise they discovered, including some of the best national lines, like Park Designs, as well as the handiwork of local Amish craftsmen.

As the cadre of happy customers grew, the Jacksons realized they needed to grow the store. And, so in 2005 a new 10,000-square-foot building was added. Today, both buildings are packed full of "something for everyone." Plus the lawn in front of the store boasts outdoor furniture, plants (seasonal), pots, concrete statues, metal shepherd hooks, outdoor decor, and decorative flags.

Ladies love Jake's, but the Guys find items to wow them, too. With a large selection of tin signs, sports-related items (NFL and MLB), and outdoor gifts, how could the Guys be bored? The Ladies face no shopping challenges with everything from kitchen gadgets and quilts to purses and jewelry.

Truly, Jake's Country Trading Post is unique in many ways. I've got to mention the extensive range of decor for the home. Examples common and not are the latest in curtain styles and a cornucopia of exotic aromatic candles. It's not uncommon for visitors when seeing Jake's for the first time to exclaim, "Wow! I had no idea that there was so much here."

Jake's is located at 2954 Lincoln Hwy. East, Gordonville PA. Hours: 9-5:30 Mon - Fri. 9-6 Saturday. 10-5 Sunday. (717) 687-8980, www.jakeshomeaccents.com.

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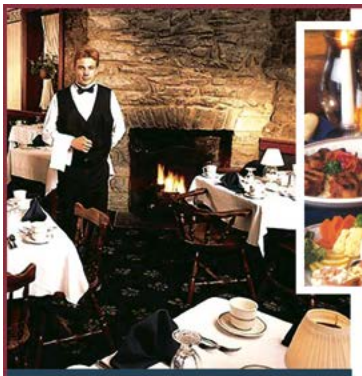

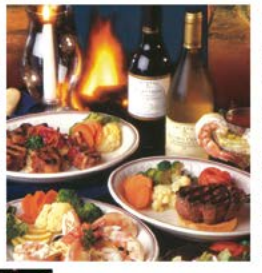

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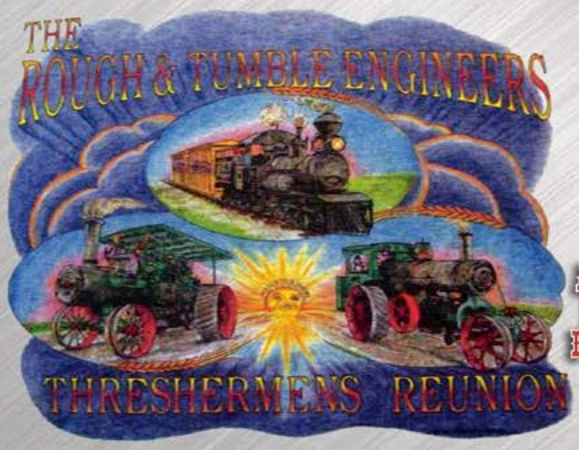

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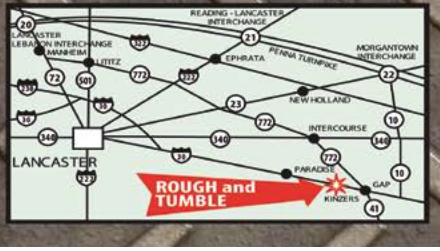

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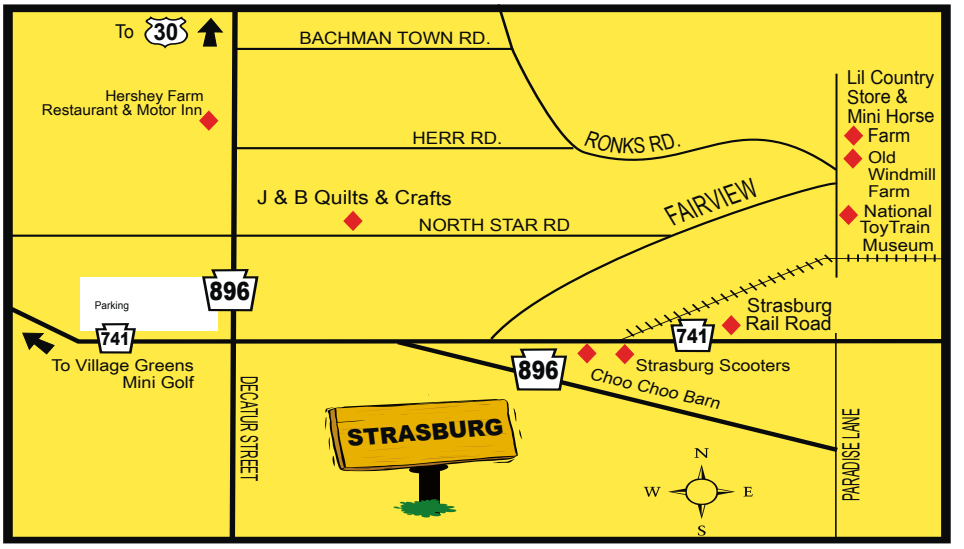
Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage

All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town." Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillion, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.



Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River. As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town!

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Hospice & Community Care's Labor Day Auction

Special to Amish Country News

On September 3 and 5, the Solanco Fairgrounds will buzz with the sounds of auctioneers and families musing over all the great finds, plus the sights and smells of auction-goers ordering the famous Amish homemade donuts and breakfast logs at Hospice & Community Care's Labor Day Auction. Held at the Lampeter Fairgrounds for the past 15 years, this year's Auction will be bigger and better and all under roof! This year marks the third time the Auction has had to move its location due to growth.

The first Auction was held at the Willow Street Fire Company, and when that space was outgrown it relocated to the Lampeter Fairgrounds where it has been held since 2000. Through continued community support, wonderful auction donations, sponsorships and ever-increasing attendance, the time has come to move yet again. But attendees can expect the same great auction they've come to love for 32 years. The Sports Auction, sponsored by Blue Ridge Communications, with guest auctioneer and Sports Talk host, Eric May will be a highlight, as will the specialty Quilt Auction sponsored by Rodgers & Associates. Vacations, fine furniture and jewelry, outdoor furniture, plants and used cars will all be up for bid. New for this year, a dedicated fine Art Auction sponsored by NITRO Cutting Services/Herr & Sacco features signed local artwork as well as an original Norman Rockwell donated by long-time Hospice supporter, Thelma Flory. The Labor Day Auction Raffle sponsored by Family Owned Markets is back again this year with a chance to win a 2016 Ford Mustang and cash prizes of $2,000 or $1,000. Tickets can be purchased online, at various community events listed online or at the Auction. Auction-goers have an opportunity to contribute $178 to provide care and support for one day of a patient's care at the Day of Care Auction sponsored by Engle Printing & Publishing. And of course there will be cakes, and toys and bowls, oh my!

Visit www.LaborDayAuction.org for a map to the fairgrounds and download the Labor Day Auction app. You can also enter 101 Park Ave. Quarryville, PA into your GPS or Smartphone and you will be navigated directly to the entrance. We are excited to welcome all our auction friends to the new location on September 3rd and 5th. See you at the Auction!

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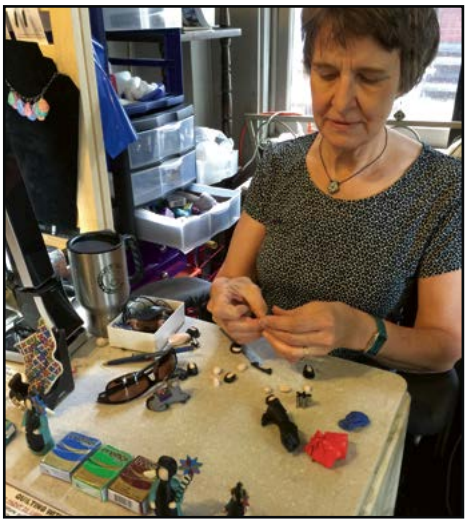

Popular Faceless Amish Figurines Designed by Local Artist

By Clinton Martin

Visitors shopping in Lancaster County are likely to come across faceless Amish figurines. What many don't know is that these Amish figurines are designed right here in Lancaster County by artist Esther O'Hara. Esther licenses her designs to Blossom Bucket, a wholesale gift company which mass produces the keepsakes overseas and sells and markets them nationally.

Continued on Page 25

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Cute and Cuddly Mini Horses on the Farm

By Clinton Martin

Just down a country lane, off a back road, not far from Strasburg's iconic attractions, the Henry and Linda Stoltzfus family tends a picturesque farm and country store that is quite possibly Amish Country's coolest place to visit. The farm doesn't raise corn, cabbages, cows, or carrots. Instead, this farm features cute, cuddly mini-horses.

The Stoltzfus family raises 10 of the miniature horses at a time, bred and raised to be gentle, friendly, and approachable. You are welcome to visit, pet, and learn all about these lovable creatures.

Visiting the farm is free, as is meeting and petting the horses. For a small fee, children can ride the miniature horses or take them for pony cart rides.

The farm is also home to a woodshop and country store, offering handmade crafts by the Stoltzfus family and their Amish neighbors. Quilts, crafts, toys, and hand woven baskets are just a few of the locally made Amish goods available.

I must add that a delicious array of homemade Amish foods is hard to resist. Think local cheese, yogurt, chips, pretzels, and other snacks, including local hand-dipped ice cream.

The farm is located at 264 Paradise Lane, Ronks, PA 17572. Turn north on Paradise Road at the traffic light from Route 741. For more information, call and leave message at 717-687-8237. Please note the farm is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm and closed Sundays.

Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery specializes in hot, fresh, delicious soft pretzels made on site at the Lititz bakery.

The Lititz Historic Pretzel Bakery... A Twist from Visionary Julius Sturgus

by Clinton Martin

Julius Sturgis wasn't always a pretzel man, but in 1861 after eleven years busily baking bread in the picturesque town of Lititz, he had an epiphany. He began baking, salting and twisting his hard-baked bread into knots. Thus did he become the first professional pretzel baker in America.

155 years later, the Sturgis family is still baking pretzels, and the bakery itself that family patriarch Julius worked all those years ago is still intact, producing old-fashioned pretzels, fresh and hot, by hand, with daily tours available.

While national production of the Sturgis line of hard pretzels is now done at a nearby bakery, visitors can still take a fascinating guided tour of the original historical Lititz bakery. Generations of families have made the annual pilgrimage to the Sturgis bakery, and the bakery tour was even featured on an episode of "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood."

During the guided tour you'll receive a hands-on lesson in pretzel twisting on the bakery's antique twisting table. The mouth watering soft pretzels made and sold on site are hand-rolled in front of you by the Sturgis experts.

In addition to "doing the twist," your guide will share information about the history of pretzel baking in America, pointing out features of the original ovens built by Julius Sturgis in 1861 and how pretzel baking has changed from then to today. Following the tour, everyone receives a complimentary sample of the famous Sturgis "Little Ones" hard pretzels.

Reservations are not necessary. If you have fewer than 10 people in your party, you simply walk-in and buy a ticket for the next available tour. The cost is $3.50 for adults and $2.50 for children. Hours are 9:00am-5:00pm Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. Call (717) 626-4354 for more information or visit www.juliussturgis.com.

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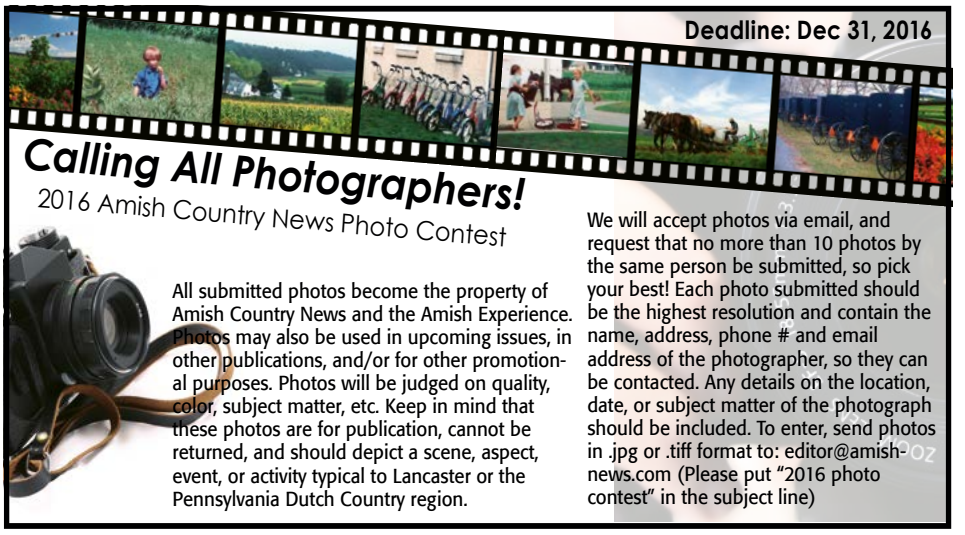
984 Square Miles of Amish Country at One Attraction: Choo Choo Barn is a Work of Art

By Clinton Martin

In 1961, the Choo Choo Barn was a modest miniature rail road layout which entertained handfuls of curious visitors. In 2016, the Choo Choo Barn continues to embody that tradition as decades and labors of love have created a veritable work of art enjoyed by 100s of thousands of visitors from around the world.

Still owned and operated by the third generation of the Groff family, the Choo Choo Barn is an amazing and engaging 1700- square-foot model train layout. 22 individual trains rumble along the tracks past countless animations, iconic Amish Country scenes, a changing night and day cycle of lighting, plus a challenging scavenger hunt that observant guests conquer by seeking hidden items in the display.

It's just good old-fashioned family fun, with an affordable admission under $8 for adults and under $5 for kids. The Choo Choo Barn is open every day including Sunday. Call (717) 687-7911 for added information or visit www.ChooChooBarn.com. For directions, use GPS address 226 Gap Rd, Strasburg, PA 17579.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Calling All Photographers!
2016 Amish Country News Photo Contest
All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes. Photos will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.
We will accept photos via email, and request that no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, so pick your best! Each photo submitted should be the highest resolution and contain the name, address, phone # and email address of the photographer, so they can be contacted. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should be included. To enter, send photos in .jpg or .tiff format to: editor@amish-news.com (Please put "2016 photo contest" in the subject line)

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AMISH CO NEWS

Myths About the Amish

by Brad Igou

Over the years, and even more so today with the proliferation of "reality TV shows," there have been many misconceptions spread about the Amish. These often go beyond stereotypes, to outright lies, with one of the best examples being the outrageous (but popular) "Amish Mafia" series. Admittedly, some viewers watch such shows for their entertainment value, but others actually believe much of what they see. Bottom line --- such shows make it difficult to separate fact from fiction.

In this series, we will deal with several of the more understandable misconceptions about the Amish, many of which may have some truth to them, and try to give a more balanced explanation. The reader should keep in mind that Amish customs vary a great deal across the USA, and much of what follows is focused on the Lancaster settlement, the oldest in the Nation.

"Graven Images, Photos, and Dolls" – Part 2

In last month's article on the Amish and photographs, we looked at the Bible's Second Commandment concerning graven images as the prime explanation for the Amish aversion to photos. But it has become clear that this Biblical underpinning may actually be an attempt to provide a Scriptural interpretation for an idea that is central to Amish culture…humility.

Dr. Donald Kraybill in *The Riddle of Amish Culture*, notes that the Second Commandment was used to legitimize the taboo against pictures. "In the latter part of the nineteenth century, as photography was becoming popular, the Amish applied the biblical injunction against 'likeness' to photographs. Their aversion to photographs is a way of suppressing pride. If people see themselves displayed in a photograph, they might begin to take themselves too seriously."

Amishman Elmo Stoll, writing in the March 1987 issue of *Family Life*, an Amish magazine, took on the entire issue of graven images, photography and the Second Commandment. He notes that certainly a painted portrait would be no more permissible than a photograph, that x-rays and toy animals are images, and that stamps and money have likenesses of people on them.

Stoll says the issue has more to do with idolatry, and that today's idol, unlike the "golden calf," may really be Self. "We believe that posing for photographs is part of the world's misguided emphasis on glorifying our outward man. The Bible tells us that it is the inner man that is important…Thus we believe that letting ourselves get involved in the world of photography leads us away, not toward, true humility."

Thus, a toy animal is not seen as a road to excessive pride, nor are photographs of scenic spots on calendars. An x-ray is obviously of no concern because "no proud grandfather has ever yet been tempted to impress people he meets by pulling from his wallet x-ray photos of his grandchild's spinal column!"

He notes that some groups allow snapshots for government files or passports, since the Amish themselves do not keep these photos. And while some people might be tempted to admire themselves in the mirror, at least this is not a permanent image.

Stoll admits that some Amish may long for and have pictures of their children or parents. Indeed, some photographers and many local residents tell stories of Amish parents who request copies of photos of their children that their non-Amish friends may have taken. These, however, are kept out of sight and not put "on display" in the home.

Today, with some Amish adults and quite a few teenagers now having Smartphones, the practice of taking and posing for photos is changing, and some Amish young people even have Facebook pages!

So again we are back to the question of "pride." Christian writer C.S. Lewis has written about the ego and self being directly opposed to God. I'm guessing quite a few Amish would agree that "pride leads to every other vice. It is the complete anti-God state of mind."

Pictures you see of the Amish are often taken with a telephoto lens, as evidenced by the many postcards and photo books sold in stores. Refraining from photographing the Amish is more than merely a matter of common courtesy.

As the local Visitors Bureau notes, "While you talk and mingle with the Amish, please remember that they are not actors or spectacles, but ordinary people who choose a different way of life. Please respect their privacy and refrain from trespassing on their land or taking photographs." Hopefully, most visitors are aware that the best way to make contact with one of our Amish neighbors is not with a camera in your hand.*

I once picked up a young Amishman hitchhiking to the city to visit a friend in the hospital. I asked him what he says when visitors ask, "Why can't I take your picture?" He told me that his joking reply is usually, "Because somebody already did!" He added that since local guides on tour buses usually explain the dislike of photographs, he feels more comfortable in waving at them than he might otherwise.

Amish author Stoll concludes that the photograph is an attempt to "preserve and make permanent that which God has decreed shall pass away… Dust we are, to dust we shall return. Why frame and embellish and hang on the wall the pictures of this house of clay in which we live? Let us beware lest we permit Self to be exalted, becoming unto us a graven image."

*** Editor's Note:** There are tour operators offering tours of the Amish farmlands where you can witness Amish life from afar. But the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm offers three daily 14-passenger shuttle tours which they call Visit-in-Person Tours. Visitors can actually be with an Amish dairy farmer at milking time, stop at the home business of an Amish artisan, and finally visit with an Amish family in their home. It's a rare chance to get to know the Amish face-to-face, rather than through the lens of a camera.

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Stop 2: Amish "Cottage Industry" As land for farming shrinks, more Amish turn to home businesses to balance work and family. For example, we may visit a furniture craftsman, greenhouse, soap artisan, harness shop, canning kitchen, basket weaver, mini-horse farm, or even a carriage maker, for a personal talk and presentation.

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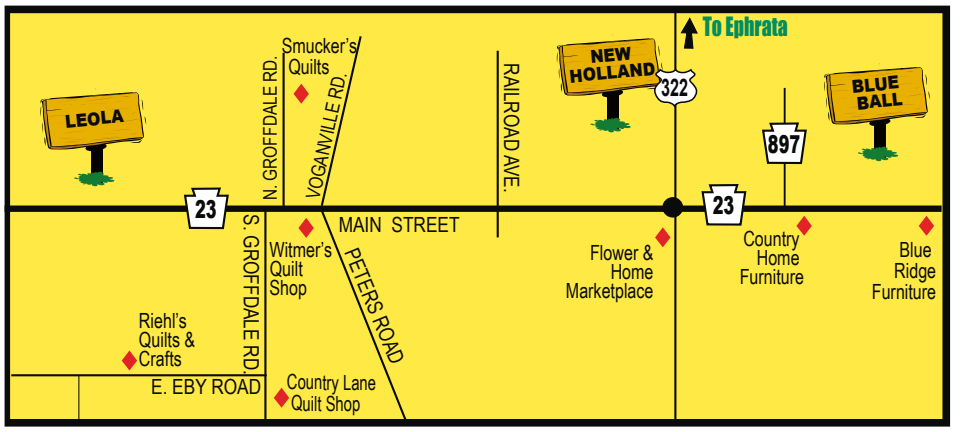


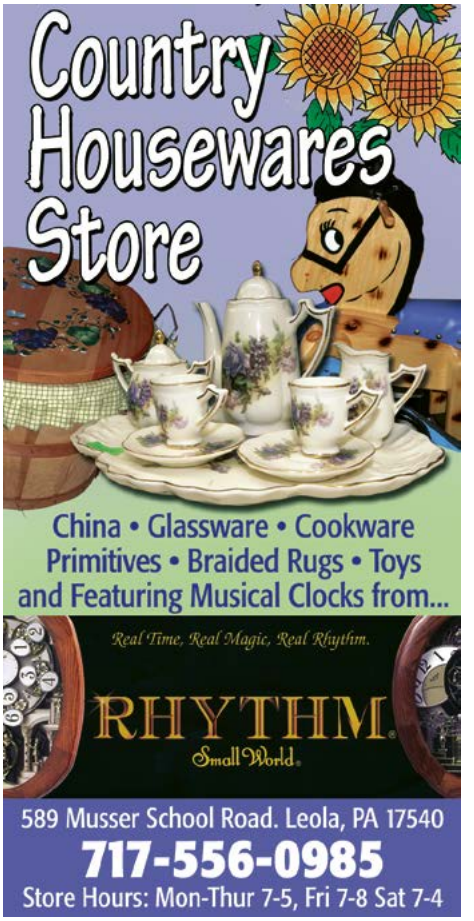
The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres.

By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.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Time to Face Facts, and Get on Facebook: Union Barrel Works is a Must-Try

By Clinton Martin

I *wonder what's going on at Union Barrel Works today.* That was the question that unexpectedly popped into my consciousness the other day, and quickly took me on a wild ride of hunger and thirst. I decided to satisfy my curiosity with a quick visit to Union Barrel Works' Facebook page – only to realize there were 100 reasons I needed to be at Union Barrel Works right now. My curiosity was sated, but more than just my palate had a craving for a visit to UBW.

Maybe it was the entertainment I was missing? With various musical acts on the UBW playbill, I noticed that "Kiwi on the Keys" is a regular performer and had become a crowd favorite.

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Still beckoning me was the tap room's creative menu with specials like venison meatloaf, grilled swordfish with kale citrus pesto, or tomato lager gazpacho soup.

So I could only read about, and not quaff, the craft beer selection, boasting cherry wheat ale, wobbly bob doublebock, plus an authentic bohemian style pilsner.

And the reality hit that I wasn't at Union Barrel Works to take advantage of the happy hour pint specials, growler fill flash sales, and even the on-site handmade beer soaps – there's only so much a man can withstand.

Do visit UBW's Facebook page... www.facebook.com/UBWrestaurantandpub but do yourself a favor and skip the suffering. Just point your GPS to 6 N. Reamstown Road, Stevens PA or call (717) 335-7837 for directions and enjoy the exceptional food, fare, and festivities that UBW does so well.

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48 Years in Business

Esther O'Hara

(Continued from Page 17)

Esther O'Hara grew up without electricity, carrying water from the local cistern, making crafts, and living an overall simple life as part of a large family. She grew up Amish, right? No. She grew up in east Africa, part of a missionary family. She's lived most of her adult life in Lancaster County, an "English" person perhaps uncommonly gifted at understanding the Plain people. When visiting Amish friends, she's immediately immersed in childhood memories.

Whether it was handicrafts as a girl, or living in Amish Country as an adult, her artistic muse was stirred by Lancaster County's simple Amish folk. She learned to quilt in the home of an Amish friend, and to work with clay from her sister. Combining the two was her invention. Esther is perhaps the only person in Lancaster County quilting with clay.

She manipulates intricate strips of colored clay into jewelry and figurines. The method is akin to the ancient art of "millefiori" – traditionally practiced with glass. The strips of clay are layered on with precise points and little margin for error. The final quilted clay design only reaches its potential if the strips are exactly aligned.

For visitors who would like to appreciate Esther's artistic designs, but aren't ready to make the commitment to purchase a one-of-a-kind original hand-crafted piece, Esther has a full line of Blossom Bucket reproductions for sale in her gallery with the artist signature. These painted resin pieces are excellent castings of her copyrighted and trademarked work. Her designs, vision, and artistry, but with a lower price tag since the final product comes from the gift company licensing her artwork.

Particularly popular is the Amish nativity scene. Esther's Amish figurines are arranged in a unique manger scene, whimsically imagining what it would have looked like were Mary and Joseph an Amish couple. Reproductions and handcrafted nativity sets are available at Esther's gallery or online at www.birdinhandantiquemarket.com/esther-o-hara.html.

Her line of handcrafted clay designs, original pieces made only by her, and only in Lancaster County, are available exclusively at her gallery within the Old Village Store in Bird-in-Hand, 2705 Old Philadelphia Pike (717-278-1991). Thursday through Saturday, she is there in person to craft pieces and meet people. On the other days the Old Village Store is open, customers can still purchase any of her pieces with the artist signature.

Dutch Haven's Shoo-Fly Pie

(Continued from Page 25)

When you stop in, you are treated to a free sample of Dutch Haven's incomparable Shoo-Fly Pie, warmed and topped with a generous dollop of whipped cream. Invariably, visitors are eager to take a pie home to share with their friends and shipping is easily arranged.

Another Dutch Haven treat is the locally home-made Amish root beer. Admittedly, it's different. But, you've got to try it. The taste is certainly not reminiscent of commercially mass-produced root beer, with a yeasty, sugary taste that is very unique to the area.

Dutch Haven is open seven days a week. Just look for the windmill at 2857-A Lincoln Highway East in the village of Ronks.

For more information call at 717-687-0111. To order a shoo-fly pie online, visit www.dutchhaven.com.

National Christmas Center: Forever Christmas in Paradise

By Clinton Martin

Yes, Virginia, you can experience the whimsy and the fantasy of Christmas each and every day of the year. All you need do is motor to the nearby National Christmas Center at 3427 Lincoln Highway East on Route 30 in Paradise, where you'll relive the magic and the memories of so many Christmases past as you rediscover the legacy and the traditions associated with the world's most beloved holiday.

The National Christmas Center is a virtual panorama of the fantastic world of Christmas that celebrates the spirit and good cheer of the holiday all year long in a family attraction that's full of warm fuzzies for everyone.

Fifteen main galleries showcase different glimpses of Christmas, ranging from Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas customs to the old-fashioned five & dime general store of years ago. Smaller exhibits change throughout the year, guaranteeing you are likely to see something new and fun on each of your visits.

In all, the National Christmas Center encompasses 20,000 square feet of displays that remind you of what Christmas is all about. The walk through the interactive "Tudor Town" is a stroll down memory lane that leads you to the sleepy little town of Bethlehem on that fateful night.

What you'll see on your visit to the National Christmas Center is only a small portion of the amazing life-long collection of the attraction's curator, Jim Morrison. Widely known and considered a world-wide authority on Christmas, Mr. Morrison calls thousands of Christmas toys, books, costumes, and displays his own so that it is only possible to showcase a very small portion at any given time.

Still bedazzled by this marvelous yuletide collection, you'll want to explore the center's very special Christmas store. Hand-carved wooden figurines from the Erzgebirge region of Germany celebrate old-world European Christmases, while died-in-the-wool American hand-made carolers remind you how the Christmas holiday has equally become an inseparable part of the American landscape. The huge collection of books, some hard to find, is always a time-stealer for me. Make no mistake, the National Christmas Center will be far more than you ever expected. For hours and information call 717-442-1721 or visit www.nationalchristmascenter.com.

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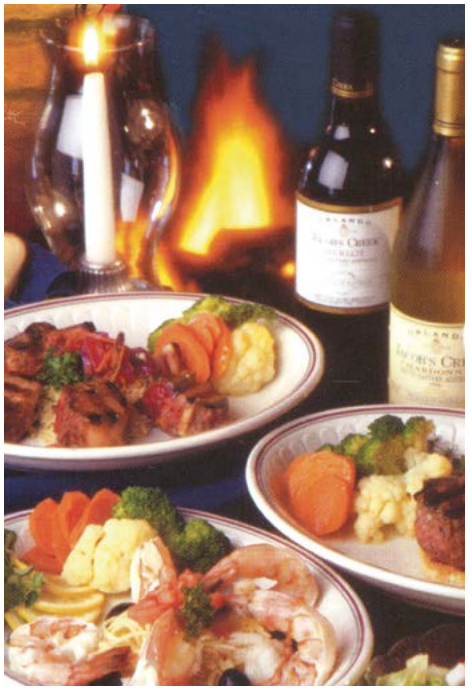

Dine in the Romantic Glow of History at Revere Tavern

By Clinton Martin

About 274 years ago, Amish Country catered to tourists, though they certainly weren't coming to see horses and mules pulling buggies and carts. Everyone's means of transportation was a horse back then, and today's busy Route 30 was already a main highway for travelers. The buses of the late 18th century were stagecoaches and they traveled through Lancaster County in great numbers.

Situated every couple of miles were "stage taverns" or restaurants offering weary travelers a hearty meal and some respite from the jostling, jolting horse-drawn stagecoaches. Some were basic, some were grand. Each catered to a different class of traveler. One of the finest taverns in Lancaster County at the time was the Revere Tavern. Lancaster County might have looked very different to the traveler of the day, but the Revere Tavern was already a fixture along the way.

Today, the Revere Tavern, located at 3063 Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30) in Paradise, continues to offer wonderfully romantic dining in an authentic historic setting, an atmosphere not created by design but generated by the sheer turning of time. Exposed beams, brick walls, warm fireplaces, and a historic bar are all bastions of not only decades, but centuries gone by. The dining choices are exciting and ambitious, with various steaks, chops, chicken, pasta, and seafood selections gracing the menu, which does tend to change with the seasons.

My current favorite meal at Revere Tavern:

Appetizer - the local (Chester county's world famous) fresh mushrooms stuffed with crab imperial, broiled and served with a lemon wedge.

Entrée - Chicken Napolean (grilled chicken breast layered with sautéed baby spinach, roasted red peppers, and buffalo mozzarella, drizzled with a balsamic reduction and served with spinach risotto.)

Dessert - the Dark Side of the Moon (three layers of rich fudge cake separated by chocolate mousse, all topped with pure dark chocolate ganache and garnished with a chocolate crescent moon.)

Tempted and wanting to see more, there's only one thing to do – call and get your reservation for an evening meal you'll not soon forget. The Revere Tavern can be reached at (717) 687-8602 or you can book a table online at www.reveretavern.com. On a busy evening, tables are hard to come by. Take my advice and plan ahead for one fine evening out.

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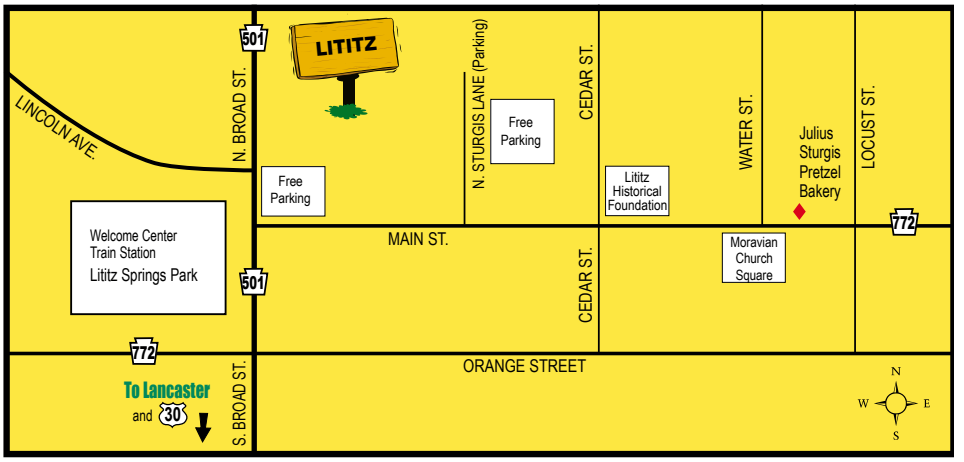


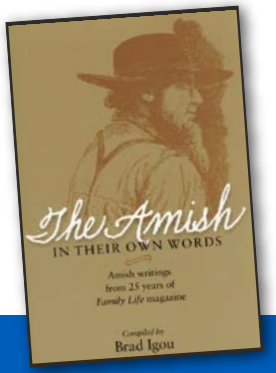
For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz -- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time.

There really is no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country. The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

The Book All Readers of Amish Fiction Need to Have!



There are many entertaining books about the Amish anywhere books are sold. Most are worthwhile, and provide hours of enjoyment. But, where does one turn to hear the voice of the Amish themselves?

The Amish In Their Own Words, compiled by Brad Igou, brings together writings from 25 years of Family Life Magazine, which Igou organized into topics such as Faith, Family, Friends, and Fun. Purchase your copy today anywhere books are sold.

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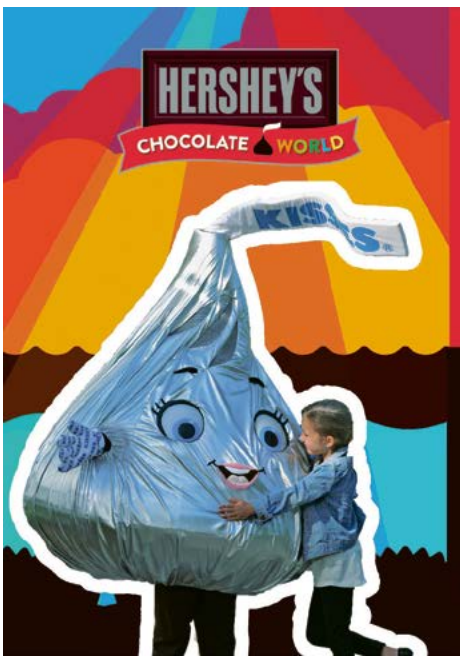

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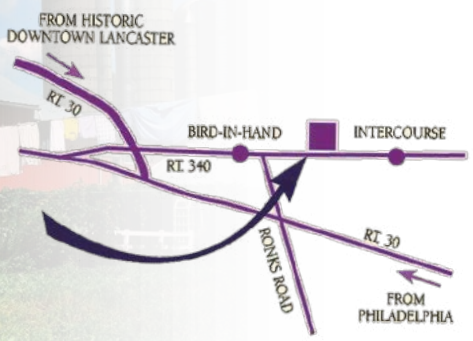

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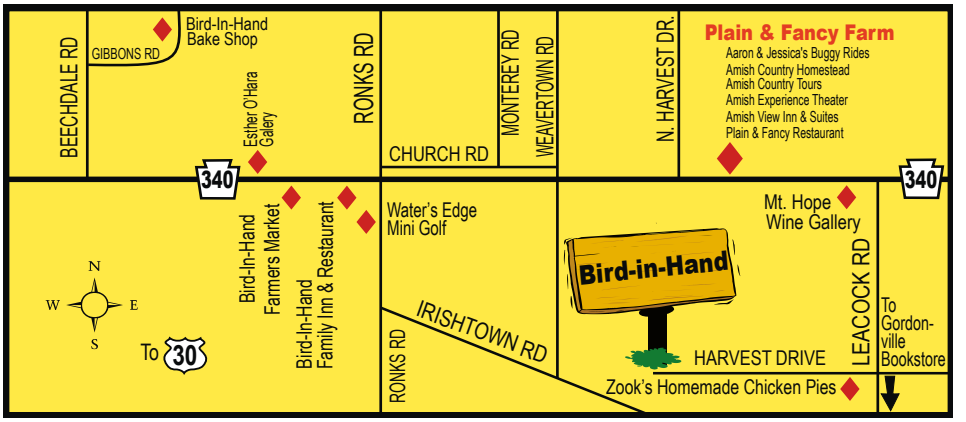
Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoneers were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.



The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched."

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

Vote Plain

Now through November 5

Just in time for the election season, the hit musical *Josiah for President* returns to the Bird-in-Hand Stage. Scandal, back-stabbing and politics-as-usual are center stage until an unlikely encounter changes the course of the country. Can a plain man of faith truly turn the tide of politics and become the leader of America? Come see why this captivating journey has already captured the vote of thousands.

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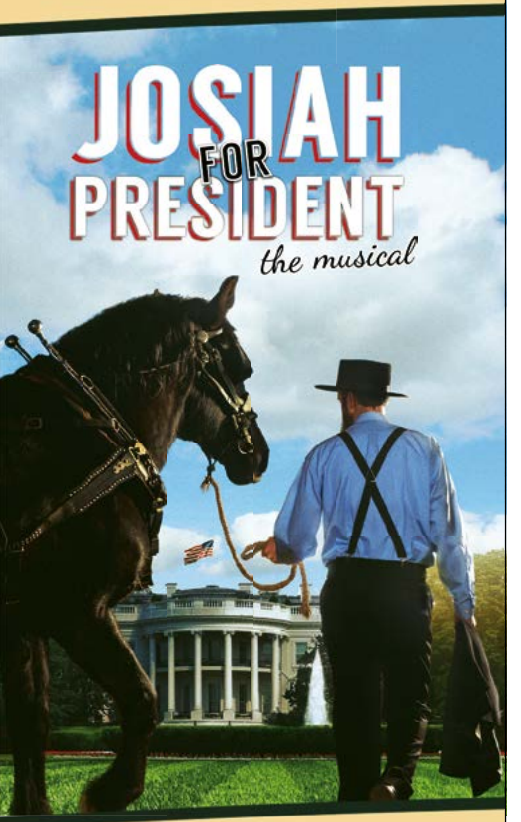

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The Grande Arrival of the PA Renaissance Faire

By Clinton Martin

Your average man-on-the-street could honestly be forgiven for thinking HBO invented America's fascination with "kings and queens, knights and renegades, liars and honest men…" But that Emmy Award winner can't hold a candle to the mirth, merriment, romance, chivalry, giant turkey "legges," and the crack of a lance off an actual shield held by a real-live, breathing Knight atop a glorious steed. Those thundering hooves actually shake your bones while the joust spectacle unfolds before you, and you'll be cheering and jeering champions and rogues as they charge by only feet in front of you.

Wow, what an adrenaline rush! Long before that TV series, the glorious Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire threw open its gates to a rollicking grand time in the merrie olde shire of Mount Hope. The festival, now in its 36th season, transports visitors to the midst of a rural English village during the reign of King Henry VIII, somewhere around the year 1509.

Every year, the festival plays out what is called "the scenario." This story line helps guide modern day revelers through the over 90 shows daily, spread throughout the carefully manicured 30-acre Faire site and brought to life by a cast of hundreds of colorfully costumed characters, artisans, 22 gourmet kitchens, craft beer and award winning Mount Hope wine pour houses, games, hounds, falcons, musicians, magicians, charlatans, pyrates, wenches, lords and ladies-in-waiting...

King Henry VII, victor of the War of the Roses and founder of the Tudor dynasty, has died. His eldest son Arthur, who was to have taken his place, has also succumbed to illness. And so England's throne and future now fall to the king's second son, Henry Tudor. Henry has chosen the Shire of Mount Hope as the site of his coronation, and on this glorious festival day our good Lady Mayor has spared no expense. She has prepared music, dancing, acrobats, jousting, and even a game of human chess! And after a day full of revelry and merriment, England's new King shall be crowned upon the Globe stage with a fantastic celebration to start his new reign.

But not all is well in the kingdom today. There are some who whisper that Henry spends far more time on the tennis court than in his royal court. His new bride, Catherine of Aragon

Continued on Page 36

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"Phantom" is told with more passion and emotion than the Lloyd Webber version and is based on Gaston Leroux's timeless love story. "Phantom' tells the heartbreaking story of the disfigured musical genius known as the Phantom and his muse, Christine Daae, the beautiful ingénue of the Paris Opera. Their musical affair unfolds deep in the catacombs of the opera house, where the Phantom finds salvation in Christine's breathtaking voice. Of this "Phantom" the critics have said… "Tops any version you have seen." (The Reporter), "Spectacular. A spellbinding production!" (Sun Times), "This PHANTOM tops Webbers!" (Daily Herald), and "A Must-See! (NBC- TV).

No need to travel to Broadway. See and hear for yourself at Lancaster's iconic Dutch Apple Dinner Theater at 510 Centerville Road (off Route 30 West). Call (717) 898-1900 or visit www.DutchApple.com for show times and other details.

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Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire

(Continued from Page 33)

(who only recently had been happily married to his brother Arthur), is herself unsure if this brash young man is up to the task of ruling a nation. And the Duke of Suffolk, Edmund de la Pole, who lost his claim to the throne when his family was bested by Henry VII in the Battle of Bosworth Field, is wondering if perhaps it is not time for a rematch. Will the young Henry rise to the role of king? Will he win the heart of his new bride? Will the Lady Mayor's extravagant preparations go off without a hitch? One thing is certain: it promises to be an eventful and glorious festival day!

The Renaissance Faire takes place over 13 weekends, Sat. and Sun., Aug. 6– Oct. 30, plus Labor Day Monday. Parking is free. Admission to the grounds is $30.95 per adult at the gate, or $25.95 per adult online in advance. Children: ages 5-11—$11.95 per person, and 4 and under are free. Purchase tickets online at www.PaRenFaire.com.

Victorian Mount Hope Estate, home to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, has been placed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U,S, Government and is located in northern Lancaster County, just off exit 266 of the PA Turnpike, 14 miles East of Hershey and 15 miles North of Lancaster City on Route 72. The GPS address for the Faire is 2775 Lebanon Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

I've been a Fairegoer for years. My best advice remains simple, "Experience the Fantasy...Get Thee to the Faire!"

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Where It All Began. Over 50 years ago, Plain & Fancy Farm opened to provide delicious, authentic Amish meals to visitors from all over the world, the first family-style restaurant in Lancaster County. Today Plain & Fancy is a destination all its own, featuring the acclaimed "Jacob's Choice" at the Amish Experience Theater, Amish Farmlands and Visit-in-Person Tours, the Heritage Site Amish House & One-Room School, and Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides. The onsite Country Store offers excellent country shopping, and the newest addition to the property, Amish View Inn & Suites, has a brand new extension with great views and luxurious lodging surrounded by stunning Amish countryside.

A Lancaster Original. Amos, Ben, Manny and Elmer are some of the Amish farmers who supply the restaurant with the farm-fresh produce it serves on a daily basis. Depending on the season, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions are all sourced from farms within a horse-and-buggy's drive. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy go "from farm to table" for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today's Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast. Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known as Lancaster County's original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, green and yellow string beans, sweet shoe peg corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoofly pie and vanilla ice cream. It was this very meal that drew Man Vs. Food's Adam Richman to Amish Country, where he went behind the scenes in the Plain & Fancy kitchen for one of his popular show's episodes.

The New "a la carte" Menu. The restaurant also offers a new a la carte menu featuring mouth-watering appetizers, signature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from scratch entrees and platters, including several PA Dutch specialties. Guests can "build a platter" with items from the family-style menu or choose one of the daily specials starting at $10 or less. You can do it all at Plain & Fancy, so why not come and "spend the day!"

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Voted best by Tripadvisor. AmishView is the recipient of Tripadvisor's Hall of Fame Award, and is the top rated hotel in Lancaster City and County, beating out 97 others.

Adults-Only meets Family-Friendly. The original, Family-Friendly, three-story building houses a wide array of beautiful, award winning rooms, suites and amenities that will satisfy the requirements of any family. The new, Adults Only, five-story building houses elegant, Grand King rooms, that will fulfill the needs of adults seeking an elegant getaway.

Complimentary breakfast buffet. Amish View's bigger and better hot country breakfast buffet is second to none, and features made-to-order eggs, omelets and Belgian waffles, with endless helpings of bacon, sausage, country potatoes, baked oatmeal, hot and cold cereals, fresh fruits, bagels, breads, muffins, hot and cold beverages, juices and more, including an outstanding view of Amish country.

Other complimentary features. Every room or suite includes a kitchen or kitchenette with refrigerator, microwave, sink and coffee maker, custom made furniture, Lenox and Quoizel lighting, Serta Presidential Suite beds, wireless internet, DVD players, stereo alarms and CD players, lighted make-up mirrors, iron and ironing board, hair dryers and the Tarocco line of shampoos and soaps.

The only place to find it all. AmishView is also the only place where you can find it all, with on-premise buggy rides, gardens, farm animals, Amish Experience Theater, Farmland and Homestead Tours, shopping and nationally recognized restaurant.

www.amishviewinn.com

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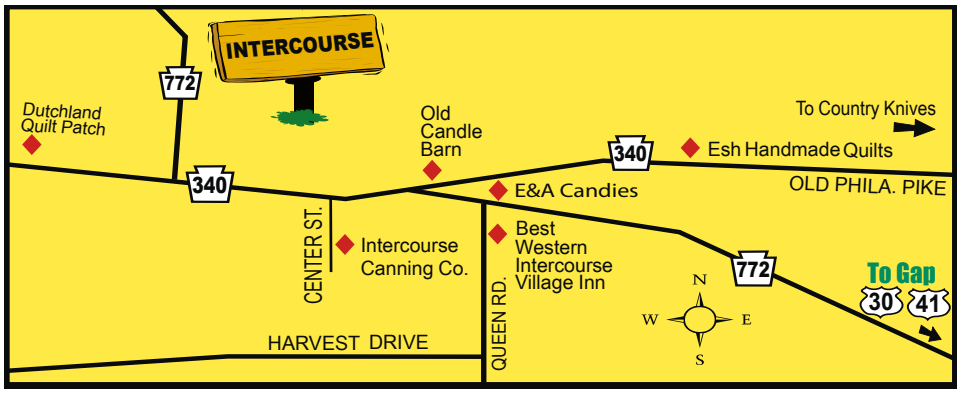
Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on just one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked “Intercourse” on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took “Cross Keys” as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising “151 handsome building lots of $250 each to be drawn for by number.” Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village. Over time, Brungard’s scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town’s name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as “a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats.” When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While “many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares.” Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for $6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires! Today Intercourse has been recognized as a “foodie” town by the Discover Lancaster Visitors Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone.

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Good 'N Plenty, After All These Years… Still Plenty Good!

By Clinton Martin

No buffet here. Rather, expect platter after platter of the homemade comfort food we grew up with delivered to your table with a smile.

Now, you might think I have a grudge against buffets. Well, that simply isn't true. I'm a true Amish Country omnivore. I can enjoy drive-through fast food, sit-down fine dining, buffets and smorgasbords, or a family-style feast. All dining options are available here. But, when it comes to satisfying the down-home, meat and potatoes desire, and perhaps a hankering for some social interaction with family and friends, Good 'N Plenty has long been my designated destination.

But, I do have to ask --- at a buffet, how long do you actually linger at your table, able to talk and chat with your guests? You're up, down, up, down again, and then you're usually not even doing that in sync with everyone else.

At Good 'N Plenty, where the menu is all-you-care-to-eat, you stay put, relaxed and eyes gazing at the kitchen as servers bring out delicious Pa Dutch inspired favorites. You enjoy friendly conversation and banter, while passing bowls and platters of meats, noodles, potatoes, fresh veggies, breads, and made-on-site desserts among your table mates, just like you would at a big family dinner. Hence the term "family-style."

Good 'N Plenty has been serving hungry travelers this way for over 40 years, meaning this family-owned business is well into the second generation, with the third firmly on board too. From the very beginning, founders Christ (pronounced like Chris with a "T" on the end) and Dolly Lapp concentrated on building their menu literally from the ground up, using local produce from their own farmland, plus contracting with neighboring farms to source vegetables, fruits, and all the various raw materials needed to make a great PA Dutch meal from scratch. At Good 'N Plenty, the quality in the taste is apparent after bite one, as hardly anything on the table has been trucked in from a mass distributor.

Dining at Good 'N Plenty, and enjoying the family-style menu in particular, is also the perfect way to try local PA Dutch specialties. You take a little, and if it's not your favorite, no big deal. If you like it, you take a little more.

Continued on Page 42

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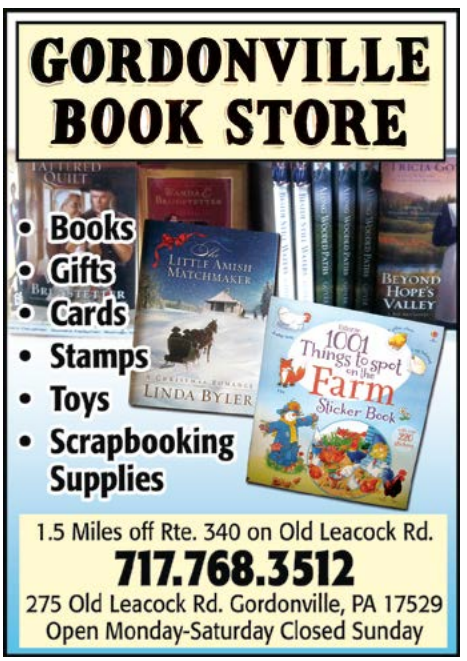

Descending Crystal Cave is Front Page News

By Clinton Martin

Think of an event in the last six months that captured front page news for three days straight. Maybe the political conventions or the Olympics?

Well, in 1919 around these parts, the local media couldn't get enough of the "Wedding of the Century." That was the nuptials of Marion Kurtz and Francis Finley, the first couple ever to wed… deep inside the famous Crystal Cave.

The event was unusual for only one reason–the fact that it was taking place deep underground. With a constant year-round temperature of 54 degrees, stunning rock formations, and a grand ballroom-like expanse, Crystal Cave was truly an amazing place for two socialites seeking to make waves with a splashy soiree on the cusp of the "roaring twenties."

Visitors in Amish Country today, with an easy day trip up to Kutztown, PA, can enjoy this beautiful cave in all its splendor. Located at 962 Crystal Cave Road (where else?), the attraction encompasses a nature trail, museum, gift shop, and restaurant. But the centerpiece of it all is, of course, the guided tour deep into the caverns themselves.

The 55-minute interpretive tour includes a thirteen minute movie presenting the history of Pennsylvania's first "show cave" and the geology of caverns. Trained and courteous guides lead through an array of spectacular milky white stalactites, stalagmites, pillar and dripstone formations, most enhanced by indirect lighting. Concrete walks with steel railings ensure the descent 125 feet underground is a comfortable and leisurely walk.

Marvels of stone sculpture include the Prairie Dogs, the Giant's Tooth, the Ear of Corn and Tobacco Leaves, the Natural Bridge, the Indian Head, the Totem Pole, the Cathedral Chamber, and the Crystal Ballroom. The last two must have sounded like perfect rooms for nuptials back in 1919! While my own wedding vows weren't exchanged at Crystal Cave, I can readily envision how unique that would have been when I stand in the "Grand Ballroom." I'm pretty sure you will as well! For Crystal Cave details call 610-683-6765 or visit www.crystalcavepa.com

Crystal Cave, an easy day trip from Lancaster County, has been open to visitors since being discovered in 1871.

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Good 'N Plenty Restaurant

(Continued from Page 40)

A personal favorite of mine, often served at Good 'N Plenty, is ham loaf. Combining the best of what ham has to offer and the comfort food staple of meatloaf, the PA Dutch ham loaf is admittedly not everyone's cup of tea. While I reach for seconds, the person to my right might scowl, while the person to my left asks the server to bring another platter to replace the one I just emptied!

There's also likely to be cottage cheese with apple butter, which is a delicacy in my book and one of the most typical PA Dutch ways to enjoy the dairy treat. For those who are cottage cheese intolerant, just spread the apple butter on some of Good 'N Plenty's warmed homemade bread, and you'll be enjoying yet another local cultural favorite.

Family-style dining at Good 'N Plenty not only means you sample various foods, in quantities as big or as small as you like, but you also get to interact as much as you want with not only your party, but with guests from around the world. Good 'N Plenty's family-style menu is served by seating diners at long farmhouse tables (a suitable setting since Good 'N Plenty itself is a converted farmhouse dating back to the 1800s.) I've been able to meet really interesting people, hearing traveler stories ranging from a quick day trip to a 21-day East Coast discovery tour that a couple was making to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

If however, you have had your fill of meeting people from around the world, and you want your own little corner of Amish Country to yourself where you can dig in without interruption, Good 'N Plenty does offer private menu dining. The Harvest Platter option in this case is what I'd recommend. Many of the locally authentic PA Dutch foods are offered in a build-your-own-plated-meal option, which is better suited to small appetites. Traditional American fare of soups, salads, and sandwiches are all made to order for those just not brave enough to go for my favorite PA Dutch dishes like pork and sauerkraut, schnitz und knepp, ham loaf, or chow chow.

While I don't normally include pricing, policies, or purses in my dining reviews,

Continued on Page 43

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Good 'N Plenty Restaurant

(Continued from Page 42)

as this article is paying homage to the wonderful PA Dutch dining available at Good 'N Plenty Restaurant, I've decided to make an exception to my rule, and honor that equally famous PA Dutch trait – the thrifty bone that grows so strong in all of us "Dutchmen."

Good 'N Plenty's family-style menu is affordable already, and the menu dining won't set you back too much either, but a Dollar off is a Dollar off. Clip the coupon on the GNP ad so you can save like the PA Dutch do, while you savor the food that the PA Dutch are famous for.

Good 'N Plenty is open daily, including Sundays. You can't miss it on Route 896 south of Route 340, north of Route 30. Using a GPS unit, 150 Eastbrook Rd, Smoketown. Call (717) 394-7111 if you have questions or need reservations. www.goodnplenty.com

1890's Lantern Conjures Up 21st Century Magic

by Brad Igou

July! It seemed like the perfect month to see "This Is My Country!" and write a review of a performance most readers know little about at the Plain & Fancy Farm Theater between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. The owners of the enterprise say they produced the show in cooperation with The American Magic Lantern Theater…"a living national treasure" (NPR). So rare are such performances, that the venue is the first (and only) permanent magic lantern theater in the world in the last 130 years.

So What's a Magic Lantern Show?

You've probably never seen a show like this before. In fact, you probably don't even know what a magic lantern is. For starters, it has nothing to do with magic as we know it today. But over 200 years ago, when inventors discovered how to project images onto a wall, and later make them move, it was magic indeed.

During the pre-show, we learn that in the Victorian era (late 1800s/early 1900s) these shows were all the rage, with thousands of people attending a single performance. In fact, toy lanterns were sold as popular gifts for children, who clearly embraced the fun and adventure of kerosene lamps, fire, hot metal and glass to put on their own version of a magic lantern show at home! I know I would have wanted one.

And then along came motion pictures, and the magic lantern faded away into the mist of entertainment history, just as silent movies were soon to be displaced by the "talkies."

Creating an Image

As I learned in the introduction to the show, many of the over 90 images we were about to see were by Philadelphia artist, Joseph Boggs Beale, whose images from over 100 years ago were seen then by millions of Americans, as showmen traveled the country magically projecting them from their lantern.

The Plain & Fancy Farm Theater boasts a truly rare 3-tiered lantern called a "triunial." Looking all spruced up with rich mahogany and newly polished brass, you might be fooled into thinking it is a modern reproduction. But it's the real deal.

Fun with the Audience

The Artistic Director for "This Is My Country!" is Mark Sullivan, who I discovered boasts an extensive professional background in theater and improvisation, ranging from his work at Disney parks to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.

Like any good performer, Mark took time to "warm up" his audience, with some fun questions about American history to engage the audience and help set the mood. Flags are handed out to the audience, and soon the lights go down and we are ready for… commercial messages from local stationary, shoe, and fur shops of the period...worthy of a few initial chuckles.

One Family's Story

Since our Showman is tracing America's story through the generations of his own family, we now embark on a "Forrest Gump-like" journey that begins with the Mayflower. Through the use of old, as well as some recently commissioned illustrations, we soon learn that the third generation of Brewsters in America were friends of a patriot named Paul Revere. And so it goes, as we see members of the family showing up at important events of the Revolutionary period.

We celebrate the Declaration of Independence with a series of images that create cannon fire, but only with the help of an enthusiastic audience.

One of the Brewster clan, Ned, turns up a few years later in Baltimore, standing next to a man scribbling on some paper, who we learn is Francis Scott Key. And now the flag wavers get their cue as we join in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Civil War Divides a Nation

The true set piece of this show, however, is the extensive and dramatic segment on the Civil War. Weaving in and out through each of the vignettes is the original music (nominated for a Grammy Award) to transport us to the dark days of slavery as a Nation is torn apart. The emotional story of the two Parson brothers, which I will not spoil for you here, is likely to leave a lump in your throat and a tear in your eye.

We spend some time with President Lincoln and his wife Mary, as they prepare for an evening at the theater. At this point the Showman abandons his lantern and moves to the front of the theater for a heart-stopping scene that drew gasps from the audience, including an intriguing "special effect" of the time that fascinated this modern audience as much as it did theatergoers over 125 years ago.

Into a New Century

The third main section of the show looks at three important events as we head into the 20th century… women's suffrage, the flight of the Wright brothers, and the transcontinental railroad. During this segment, several period photos from the Library of Congress are used to remind us how far we have come, and the journey yet untraveled to creating that "more perfect union" the Founders sought for us.

Fittingly, this patriotic extravaganza ends with a chorus of "This Is My Country!" as we salute the flag, and witness a kind of firework effect created by a special mechanical slide device called a chromotrope, which elicited ooohs and aaahs from both adults and children.

My advice is that you see this thoroughly entertaining, and very different, piece of American theater. This is a limited run, so you only have until September 4th to catch one of the very affordable 7:00pm shows, which run Tuesdays through Saturdays. More information and tickets are at www.MagicLanternTheater.com, or 717-768-8400, ext. 210. You can even come a couple hours early and enjoy a meal at the Plain & Fancy Restaurant.

"This Is My Country!" is a show about history, that is also a part of our history. For these reasons and many more, you can't help but leave humbled, yet also proud to be an American after joyfully celebrating the story of our Nation!

To Hershey
To Hershey's Chocolate World
422
322
72
419
Mount Gretna
117
PA Turnpike
INTERSTATE 76
Brickerville
322
Exit 266
Mount Hope Estate & Winery
(Wine Tasting Daily)
Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire
Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday
Through October 2016
501
743
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Lititz
(Map Pg. 27)
772
To Harrisburg
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Manheim
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Lancaster Airport
AIRPORT RD.
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FRUITVILLE PIKE
272
OREGON PIKE
Mount Joy
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LITITZ PIKE
MANHEIM PIKE
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Best Western Eden Resort
GREENFIELD RD
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
CENTERVILLE RD.
ROHRERSTOWN ROAD
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Turkey Hill Experience
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Go 'N Bananas
Lancaster City
30
Your Place Restaurant & Country Inn of Lancaster
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Wrightsville
Columbia
441
462
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Susquehanna River
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Willow Street
Hans Herr Drive
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Labor Day Auction
Hospice & Community Care
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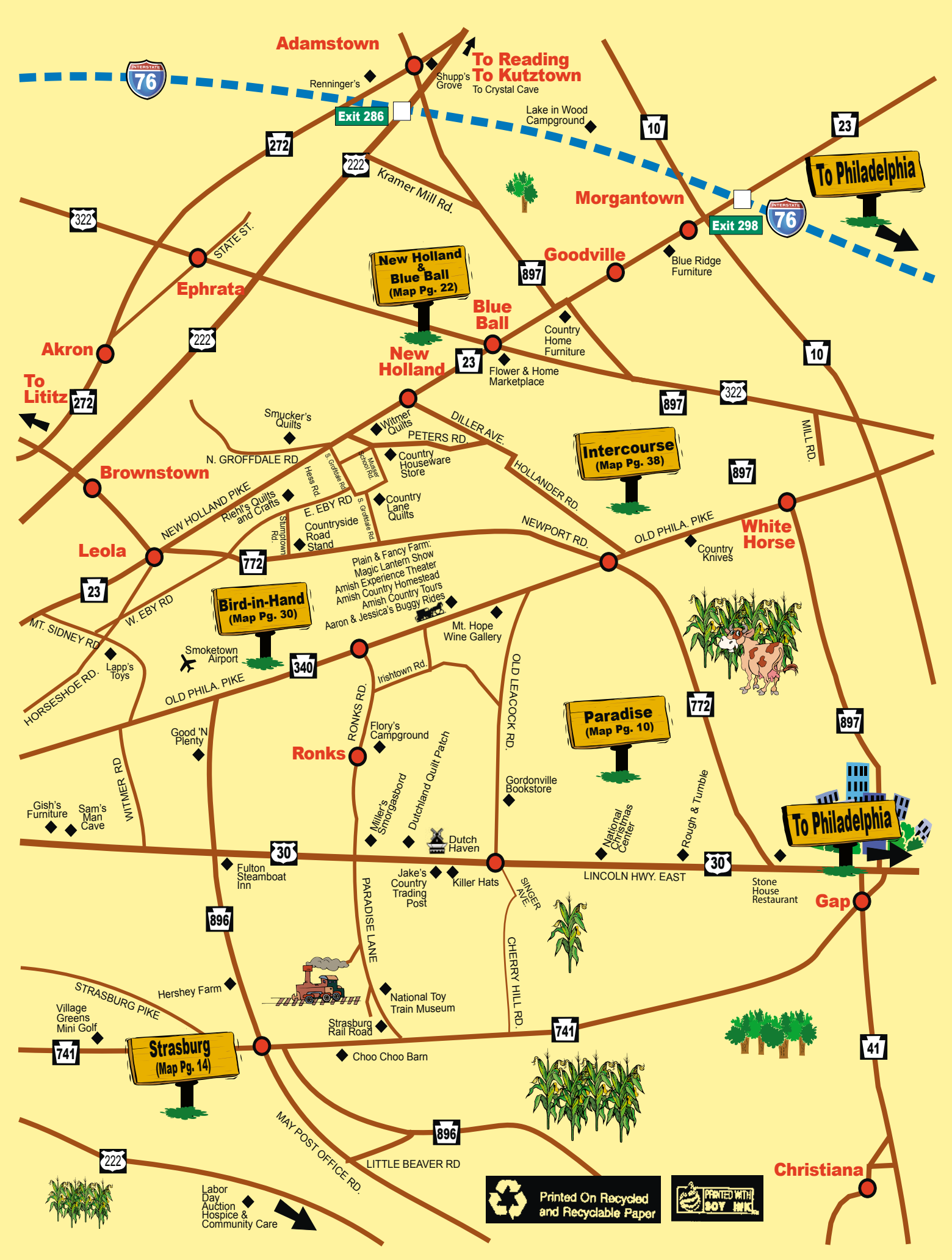
Adamstown
To Reading
To Kutztown
Renninger's
Shupp's Grove
To Crystal Cave
Exit 286
Lake in Wood Campground
Kramer Mill Rd.
Morgantown
Exit 298
To Philadelphia
Goodville
Blue Ridge Furniture
New Holland & Blue Ball (Map Pg. 22)
Blue Ball
Country Home Furniture
Ephrata
STATE ST.
Akron
New Holland
Flower & Home Marketplace
To Lititz
Smucker's Quilts
Witmer Quilts
DILLER AVE.
PETERS RD.
N. GROFFDALE RD.
Country Houseware Store
Intercourse (Map Pg. 38)
Brownstown
NEW HOLLAND PIKE
Riehl's Quilts and Crafts
Hess Rd.
S. Groffdale Rd.
Musser School Rd.
E. EBY RD
Countryside Road Stand
Country Lane Quilts
HOLLANDER RD.
MILL RD.
NEWPORT RD.
OLD PHILA. PIKE
Country Knives
White Horse
Leola
Stumptown Rd.
Plain & Fancy Farm:
Magic Lantern Show
Amish Experience Theater
Amish Country Homestead
Amish Country Tours
Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides
Bird-in-Hand (Map Pg. 30)
W. EBY RD
MT. SIDNEY RD.
Smoketown Airport
Lapp's Toys
HORSESHOE RD.
OLD PHILA. PIKE
Mt. Hope Wine Gallery
Irishtown Rd.
OLD LEACOCK RD.
RONKS RD.
Paradise (Map Pg. 10)
Good 'N Plenty
Flory's Campground
Ronks
Gordonville Bookstore
WITMER RD.
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Sam's Man Cave
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Dutch Haven
National Christmas Center
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Publisher's Message

With the media covering happenings locally, nationally, and around the world, it is easy to forget that most of our lives are made up of relatively simple, some might say mundane, activities. These "simple things" are often overlooked, not fully appreciated, or forgotten when distractions and concerns confront us. Or they may be overshadowed by events such as birthdays and holidays. In our busy lives, we too often don't even have time to savor the "simple pleasures." Perhaps that's why the perceived peaceful, far less hectic life of the Amish seems to appeal to many visitors. With all due reflection, allow me share three of my simple summer pleasures with you...

Summer's Simple Pleasures

By Brad Igou

MEADOW TEA. Over the years, I have grown two kinds of mint tea in my backyard. One variety came from my mother's yard in the city of Lancaster, the other from an Amish friend's garden near Intercourse. Although I am admittedly the world's worst gardener, these two teas have grown and thrived, perhaps in spite of me. The tea plants reappear every year, and are excellent for making both hot and cold beverages. (I admit to putting more sugar in my iced mint tea than most.) When I'm feeling a little wild and crazy, I've been known to mix the two together for a new mint experience!

SWEET CORN. While most of the lush fields you see in Amish Country produce corn destined for the silo to feed the dairy cows, there are acres of sweet corn grown for human consumption, and it's one thing we locals look forward to with great anticipation. One farm actually posted a sign that counted down the days until their corn would be available! I consider our sweet corn, be it Silver Queen, Yellow or the now popular Bicolored, a true Lancaster "delicacy." The shorter the time from picking, transporting home, husking, boiling, and brushing with butter and salt, the greater the appreciation by one's taste buds.

A farm south of my house has a stand set up this time of year called the "Corn Wagon." This year, you'll get 13 ears for $3.00. So many people travel here to buy corn that there are two parking attendants. When a tractor arrives with a wagon of freshly picked corn, people swarm over it looking for perfection in their ears, and they invariably find it. I've seen buyers leave with dozens of dozens, presumably to cook and freeze for the winter. Yes, we do get a bit crazy over our sweet corn.

Ask around, since some local restaurants (including the home of the original PA Dutch feast, Plain & Fancy Farm) do include fresh corn-on-the-cob on their menu in season. Otherwise, I'll just encourage you to take some home. But please, no boiling in your hotel room!

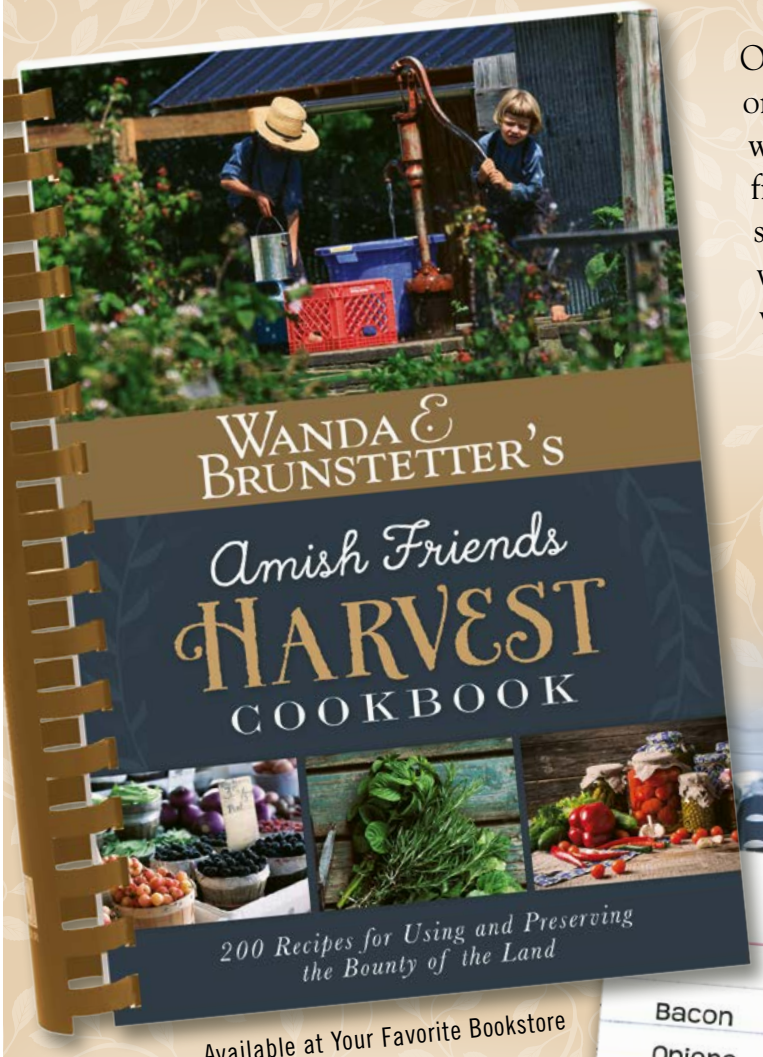
FIREFLIES. Ever since I was a kid, I found fireflies fascinating. We called them lightning bugs. Along with the cacophony of crickets, it was just a normal part of growing up here, the sights and sounds of a Lancaster County summer. I confess that I still get excited when I see my first firefly of summer.

But I didn't always appreciate how special fireflies were until a business friend was here from Los Angeles a few years ago. We had just eaten a late meal at a diner on Route 30. We stepped outside, and he stopped dead in his tracks. His mouth dropped open. I asked what was wrong. He simply pointed to the cornfield. I still couldn't grasp what he was looking at, since it was a perfectly normal summer scene to me. "I've never seen them before!" he exclaimed. The cornfield was aglow with fireflies, their "lights" twinkling on and off.

Rather than returning him to his hotel, we went to an Amish friend's house, sat on the porch, and watched the lightning bugs. We even ran around until we caught one in a jar so that he could examine it up close. It may very well have been the highlight of his visit, because several weeks after his return to California, he sent us some key chains in the shape of a big plastic firefly. You pressed it and it lit up. (My Amish friend got a kick out of that!)

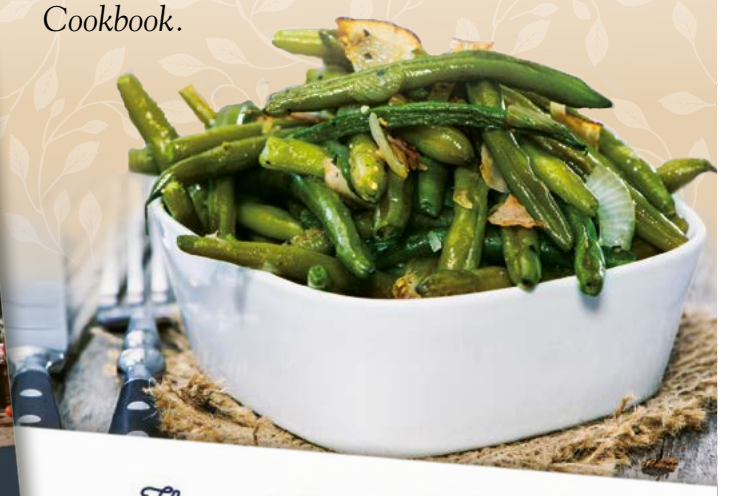
Some nights I'm lucky enough to enjoy all three of these summer pleasures. Each now carries with it memories and associations of other times, events, family and friends. No summer passes when I think that I probably didn't enjoy each of these simple pleasures as much as I might have. Whatever your simple pleasures may be, enjoy them and be sure to share them with someone you care about!

Gardening Tips and Recipes
from the Heart of Amish Country



Available at Your Favorite Bookstore

Overloaded with garden produce, CSA shares, or farmers' market finds? Now you'll know what the Amish do with these seasonal fruits and vegetables and how they preserve some of them for future use. Bring the wisdom of Amish gardeners and cooks into your own home with dozens of recipes and tips from the heart of Amish country in *Wanda E. Brunstetter's Amish Friends Harvest Cookbook*.



Try This Recipe from the Book!

Flavored Green Beans

Bacon
Onions
2 quarts green beans
½ teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon dry mustard
½ cup brown sugar
¼ cup vinegar

Brown bacon and onion in bottom of pot. Mix in remaining ingredients and steam till tender, or if using canned beans, just heat thoroughly.

Polly Miller, Topeka, PA

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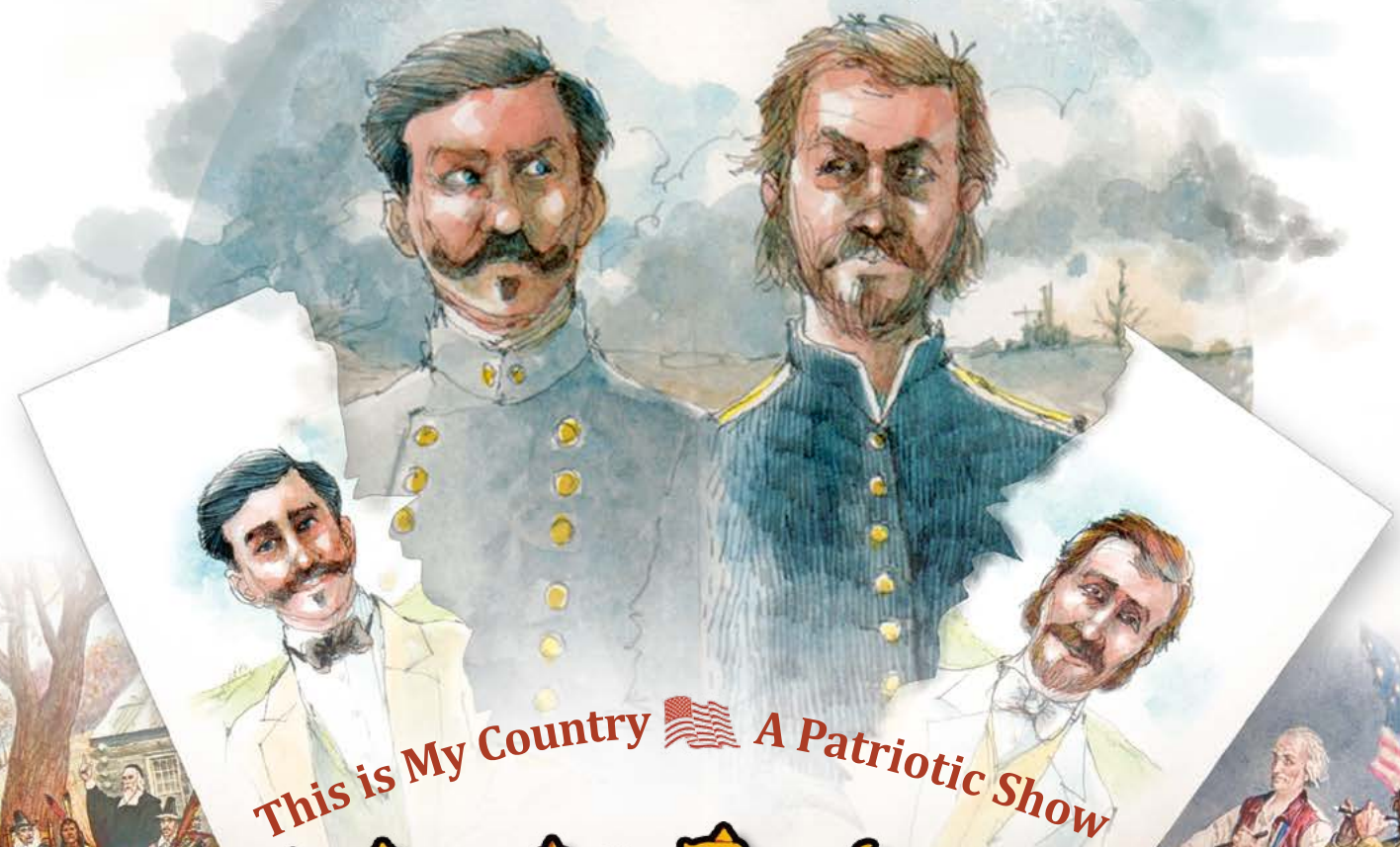

This is My Country 🇺🇸 A Patriotic Show

MAGIC-LANTERN SHOW

Plain & Fancy Farm Theater

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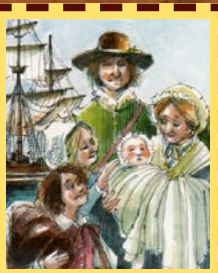

Buy one get one free on regularly priced adult Magic Lantern Show tickets purchased online, in person or by phone. Use code: ACNML. Reservations recommended.
Not valid with any other offer or with group tours. Expires 9/4/16. Valid up to four people.

Produced in cooperation with The American Magic Lantern Theater
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